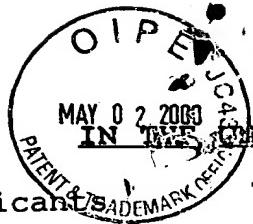


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MAY 02, 2000
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Bernard Conrad and Bernard Mach
U.S. Serial No. : 09/490,700
Filed : January 24, 2000
For : METHODS FOR DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE, SUCH AS INSULIN DEPENDENT DIABETES MELLITUS, INVOLVING RETROVIRAL SUPERANTIGENS

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
April 26, 2000

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with their duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and § 1.97(a)-(b) applicants would like to direct the Examiner's attention to the following references which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 (**Exhibit 1**) and attached hereto as **Exhibits 2-14**:

1. United States Patent No. 5,508,166, issued April 16, 1996, Tanno et al. (**Exhibit 2**);
2. PCT International Publication WO 93/23560, published November 25, 1993 (**Exhibit 3**);
3. PCT International Publication WO 95/11975, published May 4,

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1995 (**Exhibit 4**);

4. PCT International Publication WO 96/23076, published August 1, 1996 (**Exhibit 5**);
5. PCT International Publication WO 96/35793, published November 14, 1996 (**Exhibit 6**);
6. PCT International Publication WO 97/22694, published June 26, 1997 (**Exhibit 7**);
7. Benoist and Mathis, "Retrovirus as trigger, precipitator or marker?" *Nature* 388: 833-834 (August 28, 1997) (**Exhibit 8**);
8. Bernard Conrad and Massimo Trucco, "Superantigens as Etiopathogenetic Factors in the Development of Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus", *Diabetes/Metabolism Reviews* 10(4): 309-338 (1994) (**Exhibit 9**);
9. Conrad, et al., "A Human Endogenous Retroviral Superantigen as Candidate Autoimmune Gene in Type I Diabetes" *Cell* 90: 303-313 (July 25, 1997) (**Exhibit 10**);
10. Löwer, et al., "A General Method for the Identification of Transcribed Retrovirus Sequences (R-U5 PCR) Reveals the Expression of the Human Endogenous Retrovirus Loci HERV-H and HERV-K in Teratocarcinoma Cells" *Virology* 192: 501-511 (1993) (**Exhibit 11**);
11. Löwer, et al., "Identification of a Rev-Related Protein by Analysis of Spliced Transcripts of the Human Endogenous Retroviruses HTDV/HERV-K" *Journal of Virology*, 141-149

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(January 1995) (**Exhibit 12**);

12. Ono, et al., "Nucleotide Sequence of Human Endogenous Retrovirus Genome Related to the Mouse Mammary Tumor Virus Genome" *Journal of Virology*, 589-598 (November 1986) (**Exhibit 13**); and
13. Walchner, et al., "Endogenous retroviral sequences as a pathogenic factor in systemic lupus erythematosus" *Hautarzt* 47: 502-509 (1996) (**Exhibit 14**).

Applicants point out that Walchner, et al. (**Exhibit 14**) and PCT International Publication WO 93/23560 (**Exhibit 5**), are not in the English language. However, the Walchner, et al. article includes an English summary and the German Publication of WO 93/23560 includes an English translation of the abstract.

The aforementioned references 1-13 (**Exhibits 2-14**) were cited by the International Searching Authority in the International Search Report, issued October 12, 1999 in connection with PCT International Patent Application No. PCT/EP98/04926. A copy of the International Search Report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 15**.

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No fee is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
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Date